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4. For your action per note from Executive Secretary on Form 3637. Pls note 9 April deadline (DCI going out of town on 10 April).

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DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals,







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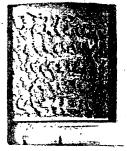
To 6: Please provide comment--coordinated with DDO--to DCI along with a response for the DCI's signature.

\$TAT

3637 (12-77)

D/Executive Secretary
6 April 1981

Date





BEST COPY AVAILABLE

DD/A Registry 81-0235

APR 2 1981

Mr. William J. Casey Director of Central Intelligence Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

As you may know, the Central Intelligence Agency in 1979 offered to the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) for opening to public use Office of Strategic Services records that have been in your care since the dissolution of OSS. At that time, mutually agreeable restrictions on access to the records apparently had been worked out: (1) C.I.A. screening was to withhold documents containing names of sources still requiring protection; (2) NARS' subsequent review was to insure the continued protection of non-OSS originated information still requiring security classification, as well as foreign government information. This has been our practice during the past 5 years in reviewing OSS Research and Analysis Division and other military records containing OSS documents.

When the first increment was transferred to NARS, however, CIA went a step further with a specific requirement that we withhold names of all persons affiliated with OSS. To date attempts to resolve this discrepancy have been unsuccessful. We do not understand the reasons for this further restriction because to our knowledge CIA screeners do not themselves delete all names, certainly not those of deceased persons or those whose OSS affiliation is a matter of proud public knowledge.

From our standpoint, too, this restriction would be unworkable and would effectively negate the original purpose of the transfer of the records, which was to make public as much of the OSS story as possible, within the limits of present national security considerations. Screening documents for individual names would be a resource-consuming operation. The documents released following such a screening, moreover, would be too limited and fragmentary to be useful to most researchers or satisfy their interests. Such a situation is likely to provoke acute researcher dissatisfaction and stimulate many objections and demands under the Freedom of Information Act, which would absorb still more staff time, both ours and yours.

on file GSA release instructions apply

We are still hopeful, nevertheless, that our two agencies can devise a reasonable resolution between the public's need to know and our Government's security requirements, and between that need to know and the right of privacy of public servants, as well as as private citizens.

Sincerely,

ROBERT M. WARNER

Archivist of the United States